

Minutes

Standards Committee

Venue: Committee Room

Date: 26 September 2011

Present: Councillor B Crossdale, Councillor Mrs M Davis, Councillor C Lunn, Councillor Mrs K McSherry, Councillor R Parker, Miss H Putman (Chair) and Mrs W Stables

Apologies for Absence: Jonathan Lund, Monitoring Officer

Officers Present: Caroline Fleming - Senior Solicitor and Karen Mann, Democratic Services Officer

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting on the 20 June were discussed. Matters arising were discussed.

Localism Bill

The Monitoring Officer updated that the Localism Bill is currently with the House of Lords for consideration. A cross party group of peers had suggested that Local Authorities should retain an obligation to keep a code of conduct with some mandatory elements however it was not yet clear to what extent the Government would accommodate these suggestions. The Localism Bill was still due to be enacted in November with implementation in April 2012.

Representation from Town/Parish Councillors on Standards Committee

Due to the changes expected from the Localism Bill no further recruitment has taken place.

Parish Council Training

The Monitoring Officer wrote to all parish councils explaining that members of the Parish Council could be part of other bodies including CEF Partnership Boards as long as they acknowledged at the meetings their personal and any prejudicial interest, at the start of the meeting. The Monitoring Officer would circulate the letter to the committee members for information.

The minutes of the Local Assessment Sub Committee, 12 September 2011, were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive and approve the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20 June 2011 and they are signed by the Chair.**
- ii) To approve the minutes of the Local Assessment Sub Committee dated 12 September 2011**

12. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chair thanked everyone for attending but made no address.

13. DATES OF FUTURE STANDARDS LOCAL ASSESSMENT SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which detailed dates for potential future meetings. The committee was informed that the date of the 24 October would be changed to the 17 October as a complaint has been received and to respond within the 21 day deadline this date would have to be moved forward.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive and note the report**
- ii) To approved the proposed dates of future meetings**

14. CASE MONITORING REPORT

The Senior Solicitor presented the current case monitoring report up to the end of August 2011.

Several of the outstanding reports were coming to a conclusion.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

15. PRIVATE SESSION

To exclude the press and the public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

16. COMPLAINTS SDC2011001/SDC2011002 AND SDC2011003 – REPORT BACK ON ‘OTHER ACTION’

The Senior Solicitor reported that mediation between the parties had taken place.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To take no further action in this case;**
- (ii) To write to the complainants explaining the Committee’s grounds for deciding to take no further action.**

The Chair thanked all members for attending.

The meeting closed at 5.37pm.